



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

LAC-IEE-99-31

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location : Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and possibly other Caribbean Islands

Activity Title : Hurricane Reconstruction Inter-Agency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support economic reactivation of the agricultural sector (SPO 2 and SPO 3)

Activity Number : 598-0865

Funding : \$10,255,232

Life of Project : 1999-2001

IEE Prepared by : Kerry Byrnes, LAC/RSD/BBEG

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with conditions

Bureau Threshold Decision : Concur with Recommendations

Comments:

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) and (iii), a Categorical Exclusion is issued to all activities, as specified in the IEE, involving education, training, and technical assistance, and other actions that will not have an adverse impact on the natural or physical environment.

A Negative Determination is issued to activities associated with the small-scale construction. Significant adverse environmental impacts are not reasonably foreseeable from implementation of these activities. Potential minor impacts will be mitigated through the development and implementation of environmental guidelines, a copy of which shall be submitted to LAC Bureau Environmental Officer for his records.

A Supplemental IEE following the procedures set forth in 22 CFR 216.3(b)(1) shall be submitted to LAC Bureau Environmental Officer for activities involving training in the proper handling and use of pesticides and integrated pest management. Moreover, a Supplemental IEE shall be submitted to LAC BEO for any activities not specified in the IEE and the Program Description (Annex A) of the Interagency agreement, or if during design or implementation it becomes apparent that significant negative impacts might result from already described activities. A summary of this decision shall be incorporated into the Interagency Agreement with USDA.

John McMahon Date 8/27/99

John McMahon
Acting Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Copy to : Tim Mahoney, Director, LAC/RSD

Copy to : Kerry Byrnes, LAC/RSD/BBEG

Copy to : Anne Dix, REA/CA

Copy to : Carlene Yocum, Caribbean Regional Forester

Copy to : Tully Cornick, LAC/CEN

Copy to : Susan Hill, LAC/SPM

Copy to : IEE File



Initial Environmental Evaluation

Activity Location : Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and possibly other Caribbean islands.

Activity Title : Hurricane Reconstruction Inter-Agency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the economic reactivation of the agricultural sector – SPO 2 and SPO 3

Activity Number : 598-0865

Funding : \$10,255,232

Life of Project : Two years

IEE Prepared by : Kerry J. Byrnes, LAC/RSD/BBEG

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination

Program Summary: Under two Special Objectives (SpO 2 and SpO 3), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will support the economic reactivation components of the hurricane reconstruction effort through a regional program of technical assistance to regional entities in Central America and the Caribbean, including country-specific assistance to advance the regional program and complement Mission-funded SpOs. SpO2 will develop an analysis of the regional food security situation in Central America. SPO 3 will assist the region in reducing hurricane-induced risks in the region's agricultural health system, including plant and animal health and human health (food safety) under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and the emerging recommendations for good agricultural practices. (Note: USDA's SpO 1 is addressed under a separate IAA and IEE.) USDA's program will contribute to reconstruction planning, including refinement of Central American and Caribbean land use practices essential for reactivating agricultural production in a manner that advances food security and compliance with WTO SPS obligations, while providing for the proper management of natural resources and the protection of key ecosystems. The objectives of the USDA program are as follows:

SpO 2: Improve understanding of the food security situation in the region.

SpO 3: Reduce hurricane-induced agricultural health risks to levels consistent with existing WTO obligations and emerging food safety recommendations.

Program Description:

SpO 2: Improve understanding of the food security situation in the region.

Expected activities include:

- Purchase and analysis of remote sensing imagery
- Refinement of food security model and production and dissemination of monitoring reports on a regular basis and special analyses as needed
- Conduct needs assessment of countries' capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate food security data (including agricultural statistics)
- Provision, in at least two countries, of technical assistance to increase capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate food security data
- Provision, in at least two countries, of training to increase capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate food security data

Recommended Environmental Determination: Activities above warrant **Categorical Exclusions** under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) -- "Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)" -- and 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii) -- "Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings."

SpO 3: Reduce hurricane-induced agricultural health risks to levels consistent with existing WTO obligations and emerging food safety recommendations.

Expected activities include:

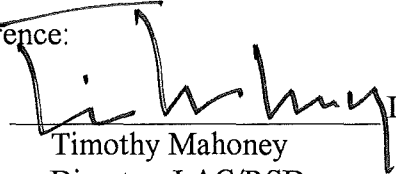
- **Program development across the SpO's Intermediate Results**
 - Collaborative assessment workshop to foster mutual public/private planning and implementation
 - Partnering among Missions, U.S. agencies, countries, and other donors
- **IR 3.1: Health Practices for Agricultural Production and Management Enhanced**
 - Field Agricultural Practices
 - Land: Training on field agricultural practices: water safety, manure handling, personal sanitation, worker safety, integrated pest management including the proper handling and use of pesticides, dairy management, and field hygiene
 - Aquaculture: Technical assistance to re-validate Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP); technical assistance on shrimp diseases

- Ag Post-Harvest Handling
 - Post harvest sanitation, education, and monitoring
 - Technical assistance and education on post-harvest storage
 - Technical assistance to re-validate HACCP, self-assessment
- **IR 3.2: Institutions Essential for Ensuring Agricultural Health and Food Safety Modernized**
 - Risk Analysis
 - Risk analysis training
 - Pilot traceback system trials (i.e., way of finding source – country, producer – of a product with a “market entry problem” such as pesticide residues or bacteria)
 - Training in epidemiology, including sampling/surveillance
 - Regulatory Development for Agriculture and Food Safety
 - Analysis of infrastructure
 - Technical assistance and training on proper handling and use of pesticides, national certificates, foreign market requirements, science-based regulation
 - Mutual agricultural health systems assessment among countries
 - Integrated public/private workshops on regulatory environment
 - Support for country participation in international standard setting fora
- **IR 3.3: Appropriate Infrastructure Rehabilitated**
 - Equipment
 - Habilitate water quality laboratory (aquaculture)
 - Rehabilitate existing damaged labs
 - Computer systems to modernize essential institutions
 - Regulatory information systems
 - Provision of technical assistance to partners (e.g., IADB) to guide investments in infrastructure projects
 - Business Partnerships Brokering for Cold Chain Development

Recommended Environmental Determination: Activities under IR 3.1 except those related to training in the proper handling and use of pesticides, and IR 3.2 above warrant **Categorical Exclusions** under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) -- “Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.” -- and 22 CFS 216.2(c)(iii) -- “Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings.” Under IR 3.1, training in the proper handling and use of pesticides and integrated pest management require that a supplemental IEE be submitted, following the pesticide procedures set out in under 22 CFR 216.3(b)(1). Infrastructure-related activities under IR 3.3 (i.e., “appropriate infrastructure developed) warrant a **negative**

determination on the condition that environmental guidelines are written to mitigate potential, local negative environmental impacts that might result from the rehabilitation of infrastructure. The LAC Bureau Environmental Officer will approve these guidelines before initiation of any activities associated with infrastructure rehabilitation.

Concurrence:

 DATE 8-27-99
Timothy Mahoney
Director, LAC/RSD

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